

# Announcements

## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

### BRILL'S STUDIES IN EPISTEMOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND PSYCHIATRY

GENERAL EDITOR: M. A. NOTTURNO, Assistant Professor of Philosophy,  
Allegheny College.

EDITORIAL BOARD: ARTHUR C. DANTO, Johnsonian Professor of Philosophy,  
Columbia University; STANLEY FISH, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Profes-  
sor of English and Law, Duke University; JOSEPH MARGOLIS, Professor of  
Philosophy, Temple University; PAUL R. MCHUGH, Henry Phipps Professor of  
Psychiatry, The Johns Hopkins University; KARL R. POPPER, Emeritus Profes-  
sor of Philosophy, The University of London.

*Brill's Studies in Epistemology, Psychology, and Psychiatry* is devoted to the publica-  
tion of recent philosophical works in these disciplines and, especially, in the  
areas in which these disciplines intersect. Such works may be of contemporary  
or historical interest, and of theoretical or practical significance. However,  
these works are related in that they all consider philosophical issues and  
problems pertaining to our understanding of the human mind; its acquisition,  
validation, and use of knowledge; and the conditions under which such acquisi-  
tion, validation, and use are or should be regarded as rational.

Should you wish to submit a manuscript for this series, please write to:

E. J. BRILL  
Attention ELISABETH ERDMAN  
P.O.B. 9000  
2300 PA Leiden  
The Netherlands

## BEING RELIGIOUS: WORKING AT SELF-MAINTENANCE AND SELF-TRANSFORMATION

INSTITUTE ON RELIGION IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 1989

STAR ISLAND in the ISLES OF SHOALS, off PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

What difference does it make for people to go to confession, to take  
communion? To hold a seder, to keep a kosher house? To salute the flag, to get  
out and vote? What difference to be "born again"? To join Alcoholics

Anonymous? To have a conversion experience? What do people do for themselves as devotees of an ideology, a rock star, a sport? Or as workers for social reform or a clean environment?

Religious behavior is often characterized by what people are working at in relation to the things, persons, practices, and ideas that have special importance to them. A scientific examination reveals people working to maintain themselves in ways they value, to restore impairments to the self, to safeguard against threats to the self, to have vicarious experiences of self they want but cannot otherwise have, or to escape from selves with which they are unhappy by finding new selves.

Concern with what we are and what we are to become follows out of the changing ways we experience ourselves as social beings in the course of our lives. It leads us to create social and moral orders as vehicles of our selfhood. The work of self-maintenance and self-renewal is to be found not only in connection with institutionalized religions but also widely outside of them. It leads to regimens for safeguarding or restoring desired states of being, as in ritual. Myths and stories rehearse our problems of being and offer us roles to emulate in dealing with them. Even music, sports, hobbies, and private fantasies play a role. Concern with achieving such states of being exemplified by heroes, paragons, and gods; of ideal conditions for achieving such states, exemplified by Utopias and Edens; and of saviors who will show the way to attain such conditions. Acquiring insights necessary to self-transformation can be the profoundest kind of human experience.

This conference will explore how the above approach to understanding religious behavior can help us get insight into ourselves and others as religious beings.

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:** PETER BLACK, Anthropology, George Mason University; JOHN CAUGHEY, American Studies, University of Maryland; Rabbi RACHEL COWAN, New York; EUGENE D'AQUILI, Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania Medical School; ANNA MEIGS, Anthropology, Macalester College; ARCHIE SMITH, Pastoral Psychology and Counseling, Pacific School of Religion; ROBERT SORENSON, psychologist and president, Sorenson Marketing Corporation, New York.

**CHAPLAIN:** REV. NAN PEETE, Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, IN.

**PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS:** WARD GOODENOUGH, Department of Anthropology, 325 University Museum, University of Pennsylvania; and BARBARA WHITTAKER-JOHNS, 141 Leverett Rd., Amherst, MA 01002.

**CONFERENCE COORDINATOR:** EDWARD F. RUTLEDGE, Box 543, Henniker, NH 03242.

**REGISTRATION:** Please fill out the form on the next page and mail it with the appropriate registration fee—payable to IRAS—to:

**Mrs. Bonnie Falla**, Registrar  
810½ North 9th Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
(215) 432-8711

Additional registration forms are available from the Registrar, or legible copies of this form are acceptable.



*Modern Humanity in Search of a Myth*

DONALD SZANTHO HARRINGTON

While *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* has for the most part published the results of scholarly research and reflection, it is also interested in the development of popular expressions of ways to build bridges between contemporary scientific knowledge and the world's religious and philosophical heritage. For many years Donald Harrington has been effectively using the scientific and scholarly work in *Zygon* as a primary resource to reformulate and represent to a wide audience themes of Judeo-Christian religion. As he does this he also sheds light on the relations between religious thought and other aspects of our scientific culture.

Harrington is minister emeritus of the Community Church in New York and president of the Center for Advanced Study in Religion and Science, one of the publishers of *Zygon*.

This book of sermons is based on a series of chapel talks given at the thirty-second annual conference of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, 27 July-3 August 1985, on Star Island, New Hampshire. The theme of the conference was "Can Scientific Understanding of Religion Clarify the Route to World Peace?" and some of its papers are published in the December 1986 issue of *Zygon*. Harrington's sermons reflect the concerns of the conference theme. They also do more: they provide a model for public communicators in all cultures as to how contemporary scientific knowledge can be woven together with humanity's religious heritage to speak effectively to people today.

Karl Peters writes: "As I edited these sermons, not only was I intellectually stimulated by their ideas, but also I was deeply moved by their images and stories. I expect that others will be affected in the same way, and so I highly commend to all the reading of Donald Harrington's *Modern Humanity in Search of a Myth*."

**Special offer:** Because of a special gift from some *Zygon* patrons, this ninety-six-page book has been produced through the editorial office of the journal, and it is available to the public at a special, low price.

For your copy, please send \$3.00 with your order to:

*Zygon* Editorial Office  
Harrington Sermons  
c/o Diane Goodman  
Rollins College, Box 2764  
Winter Park, FL 32789-4496